

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3320

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 18541

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DETAINEES UPDATE: AQUINO AND LOPEZ/OSMENA

REF: MANILA 17211

1. AQUINO. AQUINO TRIAL IS CONTINUING AT LEISURELY PACE. LAST WEEK WITNESSES TESTIFIED TO AQUINO'S BAD TEMPER (SLAPPING SERVANTS) AND FONDNESS FOR WEAPONS. FORMER HUK AND NPA LEADER SCHEDULED TO APPEAR TODAY, NOVEMBER 29. REPORTEDLY HE WILL TESTIFY AQUINO FINANCED DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST EMBASSY AND MALACANANG IN APRIL 1969. SENATOR SALONGA SAID AQUINO IS STILL BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO WITH NEITHER HIS FAMILY NOR LAWYERS ALLOWED TO SEE HIM. AQUINO'S SISTER TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 26 IMMEDIATE FAMILY HAS BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO VISIT AQUINO SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, HIS BIRTHDAY, BUT THAT THIS WAS A "ONE TIME" PERMISSION. FAMILY STILL IN QUANDARY ON WHY VISITING RIGHTS CANCELLED AND ON HOW TO HAVE THEM RESTORED.

2. LOPEZ/OSMENA. SENATOR SALONGA TOLD EMBOFFS NOVEMBER 25 THAT HE HAS BEEN STUDYING GOVERNMENT CHARGES IN LOPEZ CASE WHICH NOW BEING REVIEWED BY SUPREME COURT. SALONGA SAID GOVERNMENT HAS CHANGED CHARGES FROM ASSASSINATION TO REBELLION WHICH CARRIES MORE SEVERE PENALTY. FROM LOPEZ FAMILY SOURCES, WE UNDERSTAND GOP IS STILL ATTEMPTING PRESSURE SERGE OSMENA TO IDENTIFY LOPEZ AS RINGLEADER OF CONSPIRACY IN RETURN FOR HIS OWN RELEASE, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT OSMENA STILL RESISTING/

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NNN

Message Attributes

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